

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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R 170917Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 4505
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS FRANCE

UNCLAS MANAMA 844

PLEASE PASS AID/NE/ME - JAMES HOLTAWAY

E.O. 11652 : N/A
TAGS : PFOR, EIND, OEXC, BA, FR, EAID
SUBJECT : FRANCE AND BAHRAIN TO SIGN ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS

1. FRENCH EMBASSY INFORMED US THAT IT EXPECTS VISIT OF SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS ALONG WITH SENIOR DIRECTORS FROM FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY THIS WEEK TO SIGN GENERAL TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC AGREEMENT WITH BAHRAIN. PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS REGARDING THE AGREEMENT WERE HELD DURING AMIR OF BAHRAIN'S STATE VISIT TO FRANCE LAST SPRING.

2. WHILE OVERALL AGREEMENT IS ONE OF A SERIES OF SUCH GENERAL AGREEMENTS BAHRAIN HAS SIGNED OVER PAST THREE YEARS, WE UNDERSTAND THAT FRENCH AND BAHRAINIS HAVE IDENTIFIED SEVERAL SPECIFIC AREAS IN WHICH THEY WANT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. IN FIRST INSTANCE, TWO FRENCH PHYSICIANS AND TWO SURGEONS WILL BE ASSIGNED TO THE MAIN GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL (SALMANIYA HOSPITAL) FOR PERIODS OF TWO YEARS. OTHER MEDICAL EXPERTS WILL COME TO BAHRAIN FOR SHORT PERIODS OF SERVICE/CONSULTANCY (THREE-FOUR MONTHS). AT THE SAME TIME, QUALIFIED BAHRAINIS
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WILL BE SENT TO FRANCE FOR MEDICAL TRAINING. THIS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WILL BE FINANCED ON A COST-SHARING BASIS, APPARENTLY VERY MUCH ALONG THE LINES OF THE BAHRAIN-USG TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT (IN WHICH GOB PROVIDES SOME MONEY AND THAT RAREST OF ALL COMMODITIES HERE, GOOD HOUSING).

3. A SECOND ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WILL BE THE PROVISION OF SIX

TEACHERS OF FRENCH LANGUAGE FOR THE SECONDARY SCHOOLS OF BAHRAIN. THIS PROGRAM IS SIMILAR TO OUR PEACE CORPS PROGRAM IN THAT THE TEACHERS ARE EXPECTED TO LIVE MODESTLY AND WORK CLOSELY WITH BAHRAINI COUNTERPARTS. UNLIKE OUR PEACE CORPS, HOWEVER, THE PROGRAM IS TO BE TOTALLY FUNDED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE.

4. COMMENT: FRENCH EMBASSY APPROACHED US FOR ADVICE BASED ON OUR EXPERIENCE OF NINE MONTHS IN IMPLEMENTING OUR JULY 1976 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT. WE SHARED OUR EXPERIENCES WITH FRENCH AND MADE POINT THAT WITH INCREASING NUMBER AND DENSITY OF SUCH BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS, IT BEHOOVES DONOR GOVERNMENTS TO COORDINATE CLOSELY. IN PRACTICE THIS HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE WITH ARAB STATES, EXCEPT TO SOME EXTENT WITH KUWAIT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN BAHRAIN, BUT IS HAS PROVED SUCCESSFUL AND USEFUL IN RELATION TO BRITISH AND UNDP/UNIDO/ILO/UNEP PROGRAMS IN BAHRAIN.

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